but of continual sieges of mountain fortresses and petty isolated towns.

At the beginning of the eleventh century, just on the eve of the Norman conquest, the future Kingdom presents a very diversified map. There are three great Lombard duchies, Benevento, Capua, Salerno, while a fourth, Spoleto, touches it in its southern half. The two coasts and nearer inland are studded with cities, Capua, Benevento, Naples, Salerno, Gaeta, Amalfi, Brindisi, Bari, and so on. A line drawn from the north of Monte Gargano across to the neighbourhood of Potenza, and again to the northern limit of Calabria, contains between it and the southern and eastern sea a Greek "Theme" or province, called variously the Capitanata,' or Langobardia. Sicily is in Moslem hands.

The native forces in Lower Italy were the Lombard duchies and the princely City-Republics. The former had for two centuries followed an almost unbroken course of disintegration. At the end of the eighth century one great duchy had contained what were now three or more separate states. The glory of the duchy of Benevento had been in the period when the northern Lombard king-dom, founded by Alboin in 568, with

its capital at Pavia, fell before Pippin and his son Charles the Great; Lombard independence and civilisation then found a refuge in the South with Arichis II., Duke of Benevento.

The ancestors of Arichis had governed in Bene-